

We claim:

1 1. A method for providing information from a database, comprising:
2 storing a plurality of information segments in the database;
3 providing an option to review content of at least part of an information segment;
4 selecting information segments from the database; and
5 allowing a user to manipulate an organization of a subset of the selected information
6 segments to affect a presentation thereof.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising loading the subset of the
2 selected information segments into a memory.

1 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the memory is associated with a
2 personal computer.

1 4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the memory is associated with a set-top
2 box.

1 5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the memory is associated with a
2 personal video recorder.

1 6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing indicators
2 representing the selected information segments, wherein the organization of the subset of the

3 selected information segments is allowed to be manipulated by arranging in a selected order the
4 indicators corresponding to the subset of the selected information segments.

1 7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising presenting the subset of the
2 selected information segments in the same order as the corresponding indicators.

1 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the indicators are stored in a buffer.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the presenting includes playing,
2 pausing, rewinding, or fast forwarding the corresponding information segments.

1 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the corresponding information
2 segments include video clips, and the presenting includes skipping forward or backward at least
3 one video clip.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database includes a video clip.

1 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains visual information.

1 13. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains audio information.

1 14. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains text information.

1 15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising realizing the presentation on
2 a computer.

1 16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising realizing the presentation on
2 a television.

1 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the television interfaces with a set-top
2 box.

1 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the television interfaces with a
2 personal video recorder.

1 19. The method according to claim 1, further comprising realizing the presentation on
2 a media player.

1 20. A method for presenting information segments from a database, comprising:

2 providing a buffer;

3 receiving selections of information segments in the database, the selected information

4 segments being represented by respective indicators in the buffer;

5 arranging a subset of the indicators in a selected order; and

6 presenting particular information segments represented by the subset of the indicators

7 corresponding thereto, the particular information segments being presented in the same order as

8 the corresponding indicators arranged in the subset.

1 21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising loading the particular

2 information segments into a memory.

1 22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the memory is associated with a

2 personal computer.

1 23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the memory is associated with a set-

2 top box.

1 24. The method according to claim 21, wherein the memory is associated with a

2 personal video recorder.

1 25. The method according to claim 20, wherein the buffer includes a virtual cart.

1 26. The method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database includes a video clip.

1 27. The method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains visual information.

1 28. The method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains audio information.

1 29. The method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains text information.

1 30. The method according to claim 20, further comprising selecting the indicator
2 subset.

1 31. The method according to claim 20, wherein the indicator subset is arranged in
2 response to input commands.

1 32. A method for presenting information segments from a database, comprising:
2 receiving a request including one or more preferences concerning desired information
3 segments;

4 searching the database in response to the request;
5 providing an indicator representative of at least one information segment selected from
6 the database which satisfies the preferences;
7 placing the indicator in a buffer;
8 arranging the indicator with at least a second indicator in the buffer in a selected order,
9 the second indicator being representative of a second information segment; and
10 presenting the selected information segment and the second information segment in the
11 selected order.

1 33. The method according to claim 32, wherein the request is formulated in
2 accordance with a predetermined search template.

1 34. The method according to claim 32, wherein the preferences are derived from a
2 user preference file.

1 35. The method according to claim 32, wherein the request is received through a
2 network.

1 36. The method according to claim 35, wherein the network includes at least part of
2 an Internet.

1 37. The method according to claim 32, wherein the buffer includes a virtual cart.

1 38. The method according to claim 32, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database includes a video clip.

1 39. The method according to claim 32, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains visual information.

1 40. The method according to claim 32, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains audio information.

1 41. The method according to claim 32, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains text information.

1 42. A method for presenting information segments from a database, comprising:
2 generating preferences for selecting information segments from the database;
3 providing a buffer for retaining indicators of information segments selected according to
4 the preferences;
5 arranging a subset of the indicators in a selected order; and
6 presenting particular information segments represented by the subset of the indicators
7 corresponding thereto, the particular information segments being presented in the same order as
8 the corresponding indicators arranged in the subset.

1 43. The method according to claim 42, wherein the generating step comprises:

2 receiving information regarding a user's identity;

3 using the information to verify the user's identity; and

4 retrieving a user preference file based on the verified identity.

1 44. The method according to claim 43, wherein the user preference file includes the

2 preferences for selecting information segments from the database.

1 45. The method according to claim 43, further comprising generating a customized
2 interface based on the preferences in the user preference file.

1 46. A system for serving information segments for presentation thereof, comprising:

2 a database containing a plurality of information segments;

3 a processing unit for providing an option to review content of at least part of an
4 information segment;

5 an interface for selecting information segments from the database; and

6 a controller for allowing a user to manipulate an organization of a subset of the selected
7 information segments to affect a presentation thereof.

1 47. The system according to claim 46, further comprising a memory into which the

2 subset of the selected information segments is loaded.

1 48. The system according to claim 47, wherein the memory is associated with a
2 personal computer.

1 49. The system according to claim 47, wherein the memory is associated with a set-
2 top box.

1 50. The system according to claim 47, wherein the memory is associated with a
2 personal video recorder.

1 51. The system according to claim 46, wherein indicators representing the selected
2 information segments are provided, and the organization of the subset of the selected information
3 segments is allowed to be manipulated by arranging in a selected order the indicators
4 corresponding to the subset of the selected information segments.

1 52. The system according to claim 46, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database includes a video clip.

1 53. The system according to claim 46, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains visual information.

1 54. The system according to claim 46, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains audio information.

1 55. The system according to claim 46, wherein at least one of the information
2 segments in the database contains text information.

1 56. The system according to claim 46, further comprising a computer for realizing the
2 presentation.

1 57. The system according to claim 46, further comprising a television for realizing the
2 presentation.

1 58. The system according to claim 57, wherein the television interfaces with a set-top
2 box.

1 59. The system according to claim 57, wherein the television interfaces with a
2 personal video recorder.

1 60. The system according to claim 46, further comprising a media player for realizing
2 the presentation.